



Builth Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1962

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....	T.C.R. George,	M.R.C.S.
Guildhall, Brecon.		L.R.C.P.
T.N. Brecon 26.		D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector.....	J.C. Bowen,	M.A.P.H.I.,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods		C.R.S.I.,
		M.R.I.P.H.H.

Builth Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1962

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District during the year 1962.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/63 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. The district has an area of 125,944 acres and is a large rural area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	26.	22.	48.	
Illegitimate	0.	0.	0.	
	26.	22.	48.	14.6

The corrected birthrate was 18.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.0

The district rate was therefore slightly higher than the national average and also higher than the district death rate.

The Breconshire County Rate was 15.2

Illegitimate Births. No illegitimate births were registered during the year.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	25.	16.	41.	12.5

The corrected deathrate was 11.1

The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.9. The district rate was therefore slightly lower than the national average and also lower than the district birth rate which is a satisfactory feature.

The Breconshire County Rate was 14.39.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births</u>
	0.	2.	2.	40.0

Total still birth rate for whole of England and Wales was 18.1

The Breconshire County Rate was 22.43

Total Live and Still Births.....50.

Infantile Deaths. There were no deaths registered in children of under one year of age.

The national average rate per 1000 live births was 21.4

The Breconshire County Rate was 28.98.

Population.

Census 1931.....	4426.
Census 1951.....	3502.
Census 1961.....	3204.
Estimated Midsummer 1962.....	3270.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years.

1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962.

3413. 3500. 3490. 3490. 3300. 3360. 3330. 3340. 3200. 3270.

The population dropped considerably over the last three census years but showed an increase over the previous year.

Maternal Deaths.No deaths occurred which could be attributed to childbirth.This is a very satisfactory feature.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....Nil.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....One.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Six.

Number of Inhabited Houses.This numbers 1065 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.0

Analysis of Causes of Deaths, Males.....25. Females.....16.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	2.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	3.....	1.
Diabetes.....	1.....	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	2.....	6.
Coronary disease, angina.....	7.....	1.
Other heart disease.....	7.....	4.
Other circulatory disease.....	0.....	1.
Influenza.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	0.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Other diseases respiratory system.....	1.....	0.
Other diseases.....	0.....	1.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.No changes of officers occurred during the year,
Mr.J.C.Bowen remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Here is the appropriate place to record that during the year a Joint Committee was formed,made up of representatives from Builth R.D.C., Colwyn R.D.C. and Llanwrtyd U.D.C.This Committee considers questions,mainly of policy,which affects the three Councils and makes recommendations which are subject to confirmation by the Councils.This Committee is proving extremely useful.

Laboratory Facilities.During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff,Newport,Carmarthen,Swansea,Aberystwyth and Hereford.All water and milk samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen,whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the same laboratory.

Nursing and other facilities.The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services.The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments,dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital. The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. Two premises were disinfested during the year.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. Water supplies to the district are now administered by the Builth and District Water Board. Good progress was made during the year on Stages 2 and 3 of the comprehensive scheme which will serve a large portion of the Builth Rural District.

As a result of the new scheme, the small supplies which previously met the needs of Oaklands, Cilmery, Garth, Beulah, Llangammarch Wells, Nantyrarian, Nantyrone and Cefngorwydd have been discontinued.

Consideration was given to the enlargement of the collecting area at Llanwrthwl together with the installation of a chlorinator. Further consideration was given to the extension of the major scheme from Oaklands to Erwood. This extension would provide a much needed supply to properties on route and Erwood village.

During the year, 70 properties were connected to the mains for the first time.

As suggested in Circular 1/62 (Wales) the following information is supplied.

(a) Public Water Supply.

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to House Curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Alltmaur	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crickadarn	16	48	0	0	0	0
Gwarafog	2	6	0	0	0	0
Gwenddwr	29	87	1	3	5	15
Llanafanfawr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanafanfechan	13	39	0	0	5	15
Llandewi Aberawesyn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llandewi'r Cwm	87	261	8	24	0	0
Llandulas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanfihangel Abergwesyn	2	6	0	0	0	0
Llanfihangel Brynpabuan	1	3	0	0	0	0
Llanganton	44	132	0	0	1	3
Llangynog	2	6	0	0	0	0
Llanlleonfel	14	42	0	0	0	0

Builth Rural District Council

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to House Curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Llanwrthwl	44	132	0	0	0	0
Llanwrtyd Without	1	3	0	0	0	0
Llanynis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llysdimam	2	6	1	3	0	0
Maesmynis	4	12	0	0	10	30
Penbualt	70	210	3	9	17	51
Rhosferig	7	21	0	0	0	0
Treflis	49	147	4	12	3	9

b. Private Water Supply

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to House Curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Alltmawr	4	12	0	0	0	0
Crickadarn	39	117	5	15	0	0
Gwarafog	12	36	0	0	0	0
Gwenddwr	46	138	3	9	1	3
Llanafanfawr	46	138	5	15	0	0
Llanafanfechan	10	30	1	3	0	0
Llandewi Abergwesyn	5	15	0	0	0	0
Llandulas	34	102	0	0	0	0
Llandewi'r Cwm	16	48	0	0	0	0
Llanfiangel Abergwesyn	20	60	6	18	0	0
Llanfiangel Brynpabuan	16	48	2	6	0	0
Llanganten	11	33	2	6	0	0
Llangynog	3	9	0	0	0	0
Llanilloonfel	8	24	0	0	0	0
Llanwrthwl	24	72	4	12	0	0
Llanwrtyd Without	24	72	0	0	0	0
Llanynis	20	60	1	3	0	0
Llysdimam	24	72	3	9	0	0
Maesmynis	13	39	1	3	0	0

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to house curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Penbuallt	21	63	0	0	0	0
Rhosferig	10	30	0	0	0	0
Treflis	28	84	3	9	0	0

In the parish of Treflis, 19 houses previously served by carrying from a polluted well were connected to the mains.

Water Supplies.

Public Supplies. The number of samples from public supplies sent for bacteriological examination was 29. Of these 25 were reported as satisfactory and 4 as unsatisfactory. In addition 13 samples were taken from private sources and private proposed supplies. Twelve were reported as satisfactory and 1 as unsatisfactory.

There was a steady demand for the sampling of proposed farm supplies comprising improvement schemes under the Hill Farming Act, 1946, and a considerable amount of advice was given on the selection and protection of various proposed schemes.

In addition 43 samples were taken following the chlorination of sections of new mains, prior to use.

Number of visits to water supplies.....29.
General visits in connection with water supplies.....85.

Drainage and Sewerage. Work continued on domestic connections at Llangammarch, Erwood and Gwenddwr. Schemes were prepared for the villages of Cefngorwydd, Garth and Beulah and when these are completed all villages will have adequate drainage facilities. The Council are to be complimented on their endeavour to provide sewerage schemes in all villages in the rural district and when these schemes are completed all villages will then have adequate drainage facilities. The following information is brought to the notice of the Council.

Water Closets		Chemical Closets		Pail Closets		Privies		Connect to					
								Council Sewer		Private Sewer		Septic Tank	
No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%
481	42.2	69	6.2	334	29.3	255	22.3	208	18.2	39	3.5	230	20.1
520	45.2	66	5.7	315	27.4	249	21.7	221	19.2	39	3.5	256	22.2
546	47.5	61	5.3	296	23.7	247	21.5	222	19.2	39	3.5	281	24.4

In connection with the above figures, the first line relates to the year 1960, the second to the year 1961 and the third to the year 1962. Twenty five septic tanks were installed during the year.

Public Cleansing. Consideration was given, during the year, to the collection of refuse by direct labour to replace the previous contract system. A joint collection scheme, prepared by your Public Health Inspector and including the adjoining rural district of Colwyn and the urban district of Llanwrtyd, was adopted and came into operation on 1st. December, 1962.

Number of visits made to refuse tips.....23.
Number of general visits in connection with refuse.....27.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. C. Bowen, and the details of this report concerning visits, samples and inspections give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....13.
 Number of complaints investigated.....13.
 Number of premises revisited.....13.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by public health inspector.....5.
 Number of notices served (informal).....2.

In recent years a considerable amount of work has been carried out by the Brewery Companies to the Licensed Premises in the district. Only two were not provided with a water closet.

Tents, Vans and sheds.

Number of visits.....9.
 Two new sites are approved, one at Aberduhonw for 5 caravans and one at Cwrt Gwenddwr for 1 caravan.

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made.....7.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Camping Sites. There are two recognised camping sites in the district. One at Cilmerly and one at Elan Valley. No new sites were approved during the year. Action is being taken in connection with unauthorised siting of caravans on various sites.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Rodent Control.

Number of premises inspected as a result of;
 (a) Notification.....4.
 (b) Survey.....38 plus 6 agricultural
 (c) Otherwise.....17.
 Total inspections carried out.....130.
 Number of properties infested by;
 (a) Rats - Major...0. Minor...30. plus 2 agricultural
 (b) Mice - Major...0. Minor...22. plus 2 agricultural
 Number of premises treated by Local Authority.....52.
 Number of "Block" control carried out.....2.

Sewer treatments were carried out. Ten per cent of manholes in each scheme were baited and there were no bait takes in any.
 All dead rats and mice are buried.

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. Plans were prepared for a further 6 houses at Llangammarch Wells and 10 houses and 2 bungalows at Beulah. Consideration was also given to the building of Council houses at Garth and Cefngorwydd.

Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year.....1.
 Number of houses built by private enterprise since the war.....21.
 Number of Council houses built since the war.....74.
 Number of private houses under construction at end of year.....3.

Improvement Grants.
 Number of applications for improvement grants.
 (a)Discretionary.....2.
 (b)Standard.....6.
 All these applications were approved.

Improvement of Houses.The Council considered Circular 42/62.In this district there are approximately 650 houses which could be improved with grant aid.As a first step it was decided that details of the available grants be forwarded to the owners of properties concerned.

Rural Housing Survey.Extracts from this survey have been used in this report and the following summaries are also interesting.In the classification of houses the following definitions must be borne in mind.

- Category 1. Satisfactory in all respects.
Category 2. With minor defects only.
Category 3. Requiring repair,structural alteration or improvement and which it is considered can be carried out at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the property.
Category 4. Appropriate for reconditioning,improvement or extension, this is generally when a considerable amount of work is required but where it would be unreasonable to force owner to do the work because value of house does not warrant it.
Category 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

Classification of Houses

Cat.1		Cat.2		Cat.3		Cat.4		Cat.5	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
264	23.1	106	9.3	487	42.9	187	16.4	95	8.3
294	25.6	107	9.3	468	40.7	185	16.1	95	8.3
314	27.3	114	9.9	448	39.0	181	15.7	93	8.1

In connection with the above figures,the first line relates to the year 1960,the second to the year 1961 and the third to the year 1962.

Other Amenities as shown by Rural Housing Survey

Fixed Bath		Sink		Hot water installed		electricity,Mains or own plant	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
407	35.7	759	66.6	448	39.3	600	52.6
445	41.7	788	74.8	485	45.4	686	64.3
471	44.2	814	76.4	511	47.9	731	68.6

In connection with the above figures,the first line relates to the year 1960,the second to the year 1961 and the third to the year 1962.

Housing Consolidated Regulations. One property was demolished as a result of informal action under Housing Act,1957.In addition,one house was closed and an undertaking not to relet was accepted.
 Number of houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied after informal action by Local Authority.....36.
 Number of house to house inspections.....46.
 Number of houses inspected under Building Byelaws.....61.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food,Milk.Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of vehicles.....16.
 Number of samples taken and were satisfactory.....0.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district and all meat is supplied to the district direct from the slaughterhouse in Colwyn Rural District.

Ice Cream Premises. There are 9 retailers of ice cream in the district. Also sold by mobile van.

Number of inspections.....19.
 Number of notices.....Nil.
 Number of samples.....9. all of which were placed in grade 1.

Food Premises. The following food premises remained in operation at the end of the year.

Grocers.....17. (Seven supplying ice cream)
 Public houses and hotels.....10.
 Dairies.....3.
 Cafes.....1.
 Market Halls.....1.

The district is also served by various mobile retailers operating from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge.

Food Preparation Rooms.

Number of visits.....10.
 Number of notices.....Nil.

Educational Activities. There was no educational activities during the year.

Other general visits not specified above.....48.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

No cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of the notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....13.
 Number of fresh cases added during the year.....2.
 Number of deaths during the year.....1.
 Number of cases removed as recovered.....0.
 Number of cases which left district.....0.
 Number of cases left on register at end of year.....14.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below.

1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962.
 0. 4. 3. 4. 2. 2. 1. 0. 2. 2.

Builth Rural District Council

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIXFactories Acts, 1937 to 1959ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1962 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BUILTH IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937.PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	12	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	10	12	-	-

10/-

Builth Rural District Council

2.- CASES in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness S.1	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

No outwork was done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health